Distr.: Limited
11 February 1999
Original: English

THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Advisory Committee

Recommendations of the regional preparatory conferences for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Addendum

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1-3	2
II.	Regional Preparatory Conference for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for Latin America and the Caribbean	4-8	2
	A. Organization of work	4-5	2
	B. Recommendations	6-8	2
	1. Regional interests and concerns	7	3
	2. Global interests and concerns	8	3
III.	Regional Preparatory Conference for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for Eastern Europe	9-41	3
	A. Organization of work	9	3
	B. Recommendations	10-41	4
	1. The Earth and its environment	11-16	4
	2. Communication and navigation systems	17-22	4
	3. Benefits of space exploration, including the role of microsatellites	23-27	4
	4. Information and education	28-34	5
	5. International cooperation	35-41	5

V.99-80939 (E)

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, endorsed the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its fortieth session,[1] which included the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should organize, as part of its programme of regular activities in 1998 and 1999, regional preparatory meetings for UNISPACE III.[2] At its thirty-fifth session, in 1998, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space took note of the status of the regional preparatory meetings for the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean and recommended the approval of the programme for conferences and meetings for 1999, including the regional preparatory meeting for eastern Europe (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, paras. 25 (c), (g) and (j) and 32 (h)). The Subcommittee, acting as the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III, adopted the report of the Working Group of the Whole, which had been reconvened at the 1998 session to assist the Advisory Committee in the preparatory work for UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, paras. 54 and 55). In its report, the Working Group of the Whole noted that, if consensus recommendations were adopted at the regional preparatory meetings, those recommendations would be considered by the Advisory Committee at its 1999 session for inclusion in the draft report of the Conference (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex II, para. 42).

2. Regional preparatory conferences for UNISPACE III were held in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 22 May 1998 for the region of Asia and the Pacific; in Concepción, Chile, from 12 to 16 October 1998 for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean; in Rabat from 26 to 30 October 1998 for the regions of Africa and western Asia; and in Bucharest from 25 to 29 January 1999 for the region of eastern Europe.

3. The present document contains the recommendations made by the regional preparatory conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean and for eastern Europe, for consideration by the Advisory Committee at its 1999 session. The organization of work, including the procedure taken to prepare and adopt the recommendations, is summarized below for each of those regional preparatory conferences. The recommendations made by the regional preparatory conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for Africa and the Middle East are contained in document A/CONF.184/PC/L.5.

II. Regional Preparatory Conference for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for Latin America and the Caribbean

A. Organization of work

4. The recommendations of the Regional Preparatory Conference for UNISPACE III for Latin America and the Caribbean were prepared based on discussions conducted in two working groups established by the Regional Preparatory Conference. While the one working group considered issues relating to the environment and natural resources, as well as disaster management, the other working group considered issues relating to communications, microsatellites, basic space science and education. In each working group, speakers nominated by the Governments of the participating Member States made presentations on various topics of interest to the region, including proposals for possible recommendations to be made by the Regional Preparatory Conference. Subsequently, the working groups conducted discussions on the proposals.

5. The Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean elaborated the Concepción Declaration in order to provide an overall policy framework for the recommendations. The task of preparing the text was entrusted to a drafting group consisting of representatives of all the participating Member States in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Regional Preparatory Conference adopted the Concepción Declaration, which was subsequently submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (A/C.4/53/8).

B. Recommendations

6. The Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean noted the excellent work done by the working groups in identifying areas of priority interest to the countries in the region in various fields of space activity. On the basis of the results of the discussions in the working groups, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean decided to submit the recommendations presented in paragraphs 7 and 8 below and in its report (A/CONF.184/PC/3), for review by the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III.

1. Regional interests and concerns

7. It was recommended that action be taken:

(a) To create and/or strengthen governmental institutional mechanisms for ensuring the satisfactory development of space activities and to promote the participation of all interested sectors, thus fostering cooperation with a view to contributing effectively to resolving socio-economic problems in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) To enhance, through regional, interregional and international cooperation mechanisms, the capacities of countries in the region by means of training in the field of space science and its applications in environmental management, within a balanced social and economic setting;

(c) To identify and establish, through the competent national authorities, focal points for the exchange of information and dissemination of the results of regional and interregional projects, in the areas of environmental studies, natural resources and disaster management, in which the various sectors of society concerned with such issues participated;

(d) To foster the creation of multidisciplinary committees that would promote education across the entire spectrum of space sciences in primary schools, secondary schools and universities and to generate training and research opportunities, in particular for professionals in remote areas;

(e) To identify potential sources of funding and international financing bodies to provide support with a view to including space science and technology in academic curricula at the different educational levels;

(f) To encourage, with the assistance, *inter alia*, of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the participation of professionals from the region in international research and development programmes;

(g) To foster the use and integration of space data and other information within the programmes and activities of public institutions in countries in the region, for the purpose of publicizing technological advances, with emphasis on the fields of satellite communications and microsatellites;

(h) To promote the production of risk-microzoning maps (microseismicity, hydrometeorology, urban and rural pollution, interferometry etc.) through access to and use of satellite imaging and geographical information systems;

(i) To encourage and support regional and interregional coordination in the field of education with a view to permitting the development of and access to applications of space science and technology, thus permitting the exchange of teaching materials and experience within the field of education, including distance-learning programmes, for the benefit of all sectors of society;

(j) To promote the participation of countries in the region in education projects with a space-related component, such as education workshops within the scope of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR), and to promote the organization of other regional workshops within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

2. Global interests and concerns

8. It was recommended that action be taken:

(a) To give priority to specific cooperation projects in the field of space that would make an effective contribution to developing the potential of States in terms of human, technological, economic and training resources, in the interests of achieving the best possible results;

(b) To facilitate the timely and effective use of the information obtained through space technology as a basic input into the decision-making process, in the public sector and in the private sector;

(c) To increase the interlinking of telecommunications, remote sensing and space information systems in order to maximize the effectiveness of initiatives directed towards the sustainable development of States;

(d) To establish, during the decade 2000-2010, a comprehensive strategy for the use of space technology for risk evaluation and for prevention, mitigation and reduction activities in disaster management;

(e) To promote the use of space technology for the purpose of achieving a global understanding of climatic phenomena, such as El Niño events, and of taking appropriate prevention measures.

III. Regional Preparatory Conference for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for Eastern Europe

A. Organization of work

9. The recommendations of the Regional Preparatory Conference for UNISPACE III for Eastern Europe were

prepared based on discussions conducted separately on four themes: "The Earth and its environment"; "Communications and navigation systems"; "Benefits of space exploration, including the role of microsatellites"; and "Information, education and cooperation". During the discussion on each theme, the speakers invited by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made presentations on various topics of interest to the region. Each was followed by a discussion, during which recommendations, observations and specific proposals were made by the participants. The observations and recommendations were compiled by a working group consisting of a number of interested participants, including those who had served as the chairperson and rapporteurs during the discussion. All the recommendations were subsequently adopted by the Regional Preparatory Conference.

B. Recommendations

10. The Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe invited UNISPACE III to consider the recommendations presented in paragraphs 11-41 below and in the report on the Regional Preparatory Conference (A/CONF.184/PC/5).

1. The Earth and its environment

11. Activities involving scientific research and practical applications in the field of remote sensing by satellite should be strengthened.

12. Regional systems for environmental monitoring of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, especially for oil slicks, ship traffic, ecology and climate change, should be developed, making use of remote sensing by satellite.

13. Cooperation between the national space agencies in eastern Europe and the World Meteorological Organization should be enhanced in order to meet the need for data on global change and to participate actively in the definition of the future Earth observing mission concept.

14. National Earth observation programmes and existing cooperation mechanisms such as the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and the Integrated Global Observing Strategy partnership should be strengthened.

15. International organizations should assist Member States in the region in acquiring methodologies for remote sensing by satellite, including software packages.

16. Decision makers, at all levels, should be encouraged to learn about the practical application of remote sensing in the national development activities for which they are responsible.

2. Communication and navigation systems

17. Each State should increase the involvement of its qualified personnel in research and industrial development in current and future programmes for the utilization of space techniques and technologies.

18. The training and education of staff, especially young medical personnel, such as physicians and nurses to be involved in telemedicine projects, should be coordinated. Interested States in the region should participate, to the extent possible, in existing telemedicine networks, such as the SHARED and EUROMEDNET projects, supported by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the European Space Agency.

19. The Office for Outer Space Affairs should create a data bank on commercial space projects in general and on commercial telecommunication system projects in particular. The data bank could be used to maintain information on such activities as telecommunication systems in low, middle and geostationary orbits. Such a data bank would enable each State to learn about the latest developments and meet its needs in that area and to invest its resources more appropriately.

20. Taking note of the existence of tables identifying the purposes and characteristics of active satellites in the geostationary orbit and the services provided by those satellites, the Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended that that information be distributed as a background document at UNISPACE III.

21. Member States in the region should increase their awareness of satellite navigation by participating in or hosting workshops or conferences.

22. Interested States in eastern Europe should seek participation in the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay System.

3. Benefits of space exploration, including the role of microsatellites

23. Member States in eastern Europe should fully cooperate in space research and space exploration and should maintain the high standards already achieved in space science research, education and related applications.

24. The Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended the development of small satellite projects as the best strategy for Member States in the region interested in developing the space industry, because of the reasonable cost and duration of such projects.

25. As a consequence of the evolution of space-related technologies, the Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended the joint development, construction and operation of a variety of small satellites offering opportunities to develop indigenous space industry as a suitable project for enabling space research, technology demonstrations and related applications in communications and Earth observation. Member States in the region should seek the necessary support for such ventures.

26. Given the importance of and growing trends towards the commercialization of space-related services, such as satellite telecommunication, the use of global location and navigation systems and Earth observation applications, the Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended that Member States in the region should identify essential mechanisms for fostering the involvement of the private sector in space application activities.

27. In order to promote spin-off benefits and effective space applications, particularly in the case of emerging space-faring countries in the region, the Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended that Member States in the region should increase their capacity to understand the associated technologies and to place a high priority on their development at the national level. Each State should enhance its basic and advanced research capabilities in the relevant disciplines.

4. Information and education

28. The science and technology policies of Member States in the region should promote the use of space technology for sustainable development.

29. With the support of new information technology, Member States in the region should actively participate in the exchange of practical experience and knowledge in complementary sectors by creating networks of specialists within regions or countries.

30. National institutions and/or organizations involved in space science, technology and applications should use the Internet to develop programmes for distance teaching in the field of Earth observation, particularly in such areas of application as meteorology, hydrology and environmental protection.

31. The core institutions of the network of space science and technology education and research institutions for central eastern and south-eastern Europe should develop joint projects including both scientific and technological aspects, as well as educational and training aspects, on a multidisciplinary basis. The promotion of education at the primary and secondary levels should also be considered among the important goals of future activities of the network. Beyond a mutual exchange of information, the Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended alternative activities such as student contests and summer courses within the framework of the network.

32. The core institutions of the network should develop a satellite communications infrastructure, including appropriate terminals located in each country at the core institution, for distance learning and the on-line exchange of information of regional interest.

33. Member States in eastern Europe should develop a microsatellite programme devoted to operational uses such as hazard monitoring of the region, with long-term spin-offs in the promotion of space science, technology and applications. The results of the programme could significantly contribute to new research and development, including high-level education and training in space-related fields.

34. The use of space applications for educational purposes should focus on, *inter alia*, developing programmes for educators and trainers that would put them in a better position to prepare appropriate curricula for flexible learning and continuous education.

5. International cooperation

35. The United Nations should provide adequate resources for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

36. In order to support the necessary and meaningful exchange of information on space-related activities between States in the region, the Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended that Member States in the region ensure the establishment and maintenance of a regional database, in cooperation with established national institutions and relevant international organizations.

37. Member States in eastern Europe should be encouraged to actively cooperate and participate in the international scientific and technological research programmes on the International Space Station, as their involvement could provide major economic and social benefits for the region.

38. Because scientific meetings had proved to be essential mechanisms for strengthening regional cooperation, the Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended that Member States in the region should take the necessary steps to ensure the organization of such scientific meetings on a regular basis, as appropriate, among their established scientific and research institutions and

professional organizations relating to space science and technology.

39. The Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended that Member States in the region should take advantage, through international cooperation, of the complementarity of satellite systems for increasing opportunities in space science, technology and applications.

40. With reference to the issue of space debris, the Regional Preparatory Conference for Eastern Europe recommended that the United Nations should ensure that a good balance is achieved between the necessity to preserve outer space for future space activities and the need to maintain conditions for current space activities. The Regional Preparatory Conference also recommended that both the space agencies and the global scientific community should play an important role in helping the United Nations to achieve that goal.

41. UNISPACE III should discuss legal aspects of space activities, review and assess the current status of space law and promote its further progressive development based on the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex, of 19 December 1966). In studying those and other issues, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should continue to cooperate with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with space law.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20).

[2] Ibid., para. 153.